

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 EUR-10 PRS-01 IO-03 RSR-01 /067 W
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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3471

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11097

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 143, JUNE 20

FOLLOWING RECEIVED FROM AMCONSUL DANANG BEING REPEATED

QUOTE

DANANG 0741

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJ: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 143, JUNE 20

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

MILITARY ACTIVITY DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY. I CORPS MORNING BRIEF-
ING REPORTED ONLY 4 COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS CONSISTING OF
ONE GROUND ATTACK AND 3 ABFS (29 MORTAR ROUNDS). SIX ENGAGEMENTS,
MOSTLY FRIENDLY INITIATED, ACCOUNTED FOR BULK OF THE CASUALTIES.
3 RD CO 78 TH RANGERS HAS REACHED BN CP AT DA TRACH (AT803386) AND
THERE WAS NO FURTHER ACTIVITY REPORTED IN THAT AREA. REGION- WIDE
CASUALTIES WERE: FRIENDLY 5 KIA, 1 MIA, 23 WIA; ENEMY 17 KIA,
1 RETURNEE. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 132 ROUNDS, 86 NORTH OF THE
HAI VAN PASS, 46 SOUTH. THIS IS THE LOWEST COMBINED TOTAL ARTILL-
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ERY FIRED THAT WE CAN RECALL.

2. AIR ACTIVITY:

A. CONGEN' S JUNE 19 SITREP (DANANG 731) REPORTED TOC LOG REFERENCE TO SIGHTING OF MIG 19 IN NORTHERN QUANG TRI ON 18 JUNE. I CORPS CHIEF OF STAFF HAS PROVIDED CONGEN WITH A NEGATIVE CONFIRMATION ON THAT SIGHTING. HE HAS INFORMED ACTING PRIIY IDMPFICER THAT VNAF RADAR HAD NO READINGS FOR THE LOCATION AT THE TIME INDICATED. HE FURTHER GAVE HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE SIGHTING REPORT WAS INACCURATE.

B. I CORPS CHIEF OF STAFF ALSO REPORTED THAT ON THE MORNING OF JUNE 19 A FALSE ALERT AT DANANG AIR BASE WAS THE RESULT OF A SMALL VNAF AIRCRAFT FLYING WITH INCORRECT PROCEDURES OVER THUA THIEN PROVINCE.

3. ENEMY SEA SHIPMENTS TO QUANG NGAI:

ACCORDING TO ARRO DIRECTOR IN QUANG NGAI, INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATE COMMUNISTS HAVE LANDED LARGE QUANTITIES OF STORES, PROBABLY INCLUDING WEAPONS, AT PHO THANH VILLAGE BETWEEN DUC PHO AND SA HUYNH AT LEAST ONCE DURING THE PAST WEEK. THE SHIPMENT WAS LIGHTERED ASHORE BY LOCAL FISHING BOATS FROM A CRAFT LYING 7-10 KMS OFF SHORE AND EITHER CACHED OR MOVED WEST INTO THE MOUNTAINS THE SAME NIGHT. CG, 2 ND ARVN DIVISION BELIEVES THAT A BATTALION OR MORE OF THE 141 ST NVA REGIMENT HAS RECENTLY MOVED INTO THE AREA TO PROVIDE SECURITY, LENDING FURTHER CREDENCE TO REPORTS THAT SHIPMENTS INCLUDE ARMS AND AMMUNITION. THIS IS THE SAME AREA IN WHICH A LARGE STOCK OF GASOLINE AND DIESEL FUEL, EVIDENTLY INTENDED FOR USE OF NVA VEHICLES AND ARMOR, WAS FOUND CACHED AFTER THE SA HUYNH ACTION IN FEBRUARY.

4. JMC ACTIVITIES:

LT COL NGUYEN KHAC VINH, DEPUTY CHIEF OF GVN JMC REGION II ELEMENT, DISCUSSED POSSIBLE PRG PARTICIPATION IN TPJMC WITH ACTING PRINCIPAL OFFICER JUNE 19. IN SPITE OF INTERCEPTED PRG ORDERS TO SUBORDINATE UNITS IN QUANG TIN WARNING THEM OF LIKELY OVERFLIGHT BY JMC CHOPPERS TO TRA MY PRIOR TO JUNE 22, VINH THINKS IT MAY BE AS MUCH AS TWO OR THREE WEEKS BEFORE PRG DEPLOYS. ACCORDING TO VINH THE QUESTION OF DEPLOYMENT HAS STILL NOT BEEN SETTLED SATISFACTORILY IN SAIGON. VINH, HOWEVER, APPEARS CONVINCED THAT PRG WILL ULTIMATELY DEPLOY. HE HAS FACILITIES FULLY READY FOR

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THAT DEPLOYMENT AND HAS MADE SURE THAT PRG WILL HAVE FACILITIES IN DANANG AS GOOD AS OR BETTER THAN GVN. HE IS CONCERNED THAT PRG MAY REQUIRE THAT TEAM SITES BE LOCATED NOT WHERE ICCS IS PRESENTLY LOCATED IN REGION II, BUT FURTHER WEST CLOSER TO DEMARCATION LINE BETWEEN TWO SIDES. VINH HAD NO IDEA OF WHAT THIS MIGHT MEAN AS FAR AS SPECIFIC SITES ARE CONCERNED.

5. CANADIAN VIEWS ON POSSIBLE PRG DEPLOYMENT:

CANADIAN EXTAFF OFFICER ERNEST HEBERT IN RECENT CONVERSAT

WITH CONGEN POLOFF DESCRIBED POSSIBLE EARLY DEPLOYMENT OF PRG
REPS TO TPJMC FIELD SITES AS SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT WHICH COULD
CONCEIVABLY GIVE CANADA CAUSE TO RECONSIDER ITS ANNOUNCED WITH-
DRAWAL FROM ICCS. HEBERT SUGGESTED THAT GIVEN ATTITUDE OF BLOC
DELEGATES THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT OF ICCS BECOMING EFFECTIVE
SUGVWLORY MECHANISM, BUT HOPEFULLY ICCS COULD STILL PLAY SIG-
NIFICANT ROLE AS INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN TWO SOUTH VIETNAMESE
PARTIES. IN HIS VIEW, ICCS WILL HAVE FULFILLED AT LEAST PART
OF ITS RESPONSIBILITY IF IT CAN ASSIST IN GETTING TWO PARTIES
TALKING TO ONE ANOTHER AND SOLVING THEIR OWN PROBLEMS DIRECTLY
AT THE LOCAL LEVEL. HEBERT HIMSELF SEEMED ENTHUSIASTIC BUT NOT
UNDULY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF CANADA' S REMAINING
LONG ENOUGH TO PLAY SUCH A ROLE. COMMENT: IT IS INTERESTING
THAT HEBERT' S UPGRADING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ICCS' MEDIATIVE
FUNCTION BRINGS HIS VIEWS SOMEWHAT MORE CLOSELY IN LINE WITH
THOSE OF THE EASTERN BLOC DELEGATES WHO WOULD NO DOUBT FEEL MUCH
HAPPIER AS MEDIATORS THAN POLICEMEN. END COMMENT.

THOMSEN

UNQUOTE

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